

APPROVED

6/26/14 Special Select Board Meeting with VTrans
11:00 am, National Life Building

Present: Ken Robie, Jesse Devlin, Scott Bascom, Bob Atchinson, David Strong, Alice Merrill, Bram Towbin, Steve Gladczuk, Rep. Janet Ancel, Dep. Sec. Sue Minter, Eric Blaisdell

11:11 am Alice called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

- Discuss what needs to be done to have VTrans accept the US2/main Street intersection improvements as a 'project'
- Review the 2005 Dubois & King 2005 Study of this intersection and determine a timeline for: acceptance, scoping, implementation

Bram made a motion to approve agenda, Alice seconded; Motion passed, 3-0.

Alice asked Steve Gladczuk to Chair the meeting; he agreed.

Steve posed the question: How will the project get into the Program?

Main points of Dubois & King 2005 Study discussion:

- Select Board didn't endorse the Study until 2012; has been reviewed by VTrans staff; Region has put project on their priority list.
- Projects move more quickly when there is Crash Data which is 100% federally funded.
- VTrans has a total of 13 million dollars to address safety at all intersections in the state.
- VTrans gets recommendations for projects from CVRPC-TAC (currently, Plainfield is 6th on the list and moving up, but there are many other lists to compete with).
- The challenge for this project will be property ownership. Sue Minter suggested that community conversations can help expedite the process.

Bram expressed his frustration with VTrans not making Plainfield a priority; David expressed the community's inability to safely access Town Hall Opera House. Board would like to come out of the meeting knowing that, within a decade, the intersection project will be completed.

Sue will look into the cleaning and paving of our district's section of US 2- she believes the monies for the state paving most likely has been applied to higher risk, less complicated locations.

Dave stated that the Town is applying for a Bike/Ped grant to fund improvements for pedestrian access from the lower and upper village. Ken Robie will get in touch with the Town about who is responsible for maintenance of the existing concrete steps.

Ken Robie reviewed the process to get accepted as a Project. There is a formal legislative process that is more of a guarantee for regional planning commissions to remove a project from the list and bump up a different project ; he explained there

are 3 phases of projects: Candidate projects-accepted projects(approved by Legislature), but no fixed plans to fund; Development projects-under development, no fixed funding for the next 4 years; Front of the Book projects-defined construction with funding for the next 4 years

Next phase for Plainfield (once on list) is Design and Engineering. This will get us to construction dollars. You don't have to be a Candidate first, but in most cases you do, in order to get in the Budget Book (which makes project 'official'). Sue believes that the Plainfield Intersection project, if it becomes a top priority of CVRPC, it will be included in FY 16 Budget Book. Steve pointed out that the intersection doesn't have the necessary accident data, but there are a lot of deficiencies. Ken believes this is a viable and necessary project, but there are many of those statewide to address. He is willing to recommend this project today as a candidate and recommend it as a project for 2016-which means it would be in the System, but doesn't necessarily mean it would be worked on. His recommendation would allow CVRPC to prioritize the project.

Sue will look into a new design for the guardrail at the intersection. Sue asked if speeding is a problem in the village (confirmed by Select Board). Bram suggested that the speed limit be lowered when there is an event at the Town Hall Opera House. Sue suggested digital message signs when there is a big event. She repeated that it can take along time to get to the construction dollars phase of a project. Steve said if project is entered into the system, it could be resubmitted by CVRPC to the legislature for the FY 2016 list. Alice mentioned that the intersection project relates to the project that Town is applying for funding from the Bike/Ped program. Discussion about VTran's criteria for designated crosswalk on US 2. Steve pointed out that the Dubois & King study provides the safest solution to the problem because it provides a signalized intersection. Discussion about Main Street Bridge and proposed pre-fab pedestrian bridge adjacent to.

11:55 am Bram made motion to adjourn, David seconded; Motion passed, 3-0.